



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: November 4, 2009

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acceptance of an 80-acre donation in Stokes Canyon, APNs 4455-014-005 and 4455-027-001, Calabasas.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of an 80-acre donation in Stokes Canyon (APNs 4455-014-005 and 4455-027-001) in unincorporated Calabasas.

Background: The owners of the two subject parcels in the Stokes Canyon watershed of the central Santa Monica Mountains have not definitively decided to donate their 80 acres. However, the good possibility of a pre-2010 closing warrants taking preparatory action in advance. The attached figures show the adjacency of the parcels to Las Virgenes View Park. The parcels contain high quality chaparral vegetation, grassland, oak woodland and oak riparian habitat along a major tributary of Stokes Creek. The properties have core habitat value. An apparent small grading encroachment in the southwest corner of APN 4455-014-005 should not be a deterrent to public ownership. Both subject parcels are of the highest priority on the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) Land Acquisition Plan.

The addition of these parcels to the SMMNRA would be the most significant public acquisition in the Calabasas area since the MRCA's acquisition of Soka University to create King Gillette Ranch Park. Run-off from the site flows through King Gillette Ranch into Malibu Creek.